(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

FICCI and CII's demand for reduction of interest on PFs

2050. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that FICCI and CII have sought from Government to reduce rate of interest on provident funds available to employees and workers at present;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what is Government's stand on the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) :(a) to (c) Suggestions are received from time to time from several forums for reduction of interest on Provident Funds, which are considered in terms of existing policy of the Government of India. As of now, there is no such proposal to reduce the interest rate on Provident Funds.

Corporate/Income Tax collection

2051. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total Corporate and Income tax collected in this financial year, so far;

(b) what is the total achievement in terms of percentage as compared to the last financial year;

(c) the number of more people brought into assessment; and

(d) what steps are being taken to bring more people into the Tax net?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) :(a) and (b) The total collection of Corporation Tax and Income Tax upto November, 1999 and corresponding period of last year is given below:—

Taxes	Collection to Nov. 99	Collection upto Nov. 98	% growth over last year
	(Rupees in crores)		
Corporation Tax	10806.95	10786.71	0.19
Income Tax	11626.38	9968.56	16.63
TOTAL	22433.33	20755.27	8.08

(c) The total number of assessees was 1,82,29,427/- as on 31.3.1999. During this financial year, 17,74,722/- new assessees were added upto 31.10.1999.

(d) The following major steps have been taken to bring more people under assessment scheme:—

(i) The scope of 1/6 scheme has been extended this year to cover 19 new centres in addition to the existing 35 centres.

(ii) Carrying out verification on a regular basis.

(iii) Information relating to tax deducted at source is being matched with the existing assessees to find out new assessees.

(iv) Data relating to application/allotment of Permanent Account Number is also being matched with the data base of existing assessees.

(v) Extensive and targeted publicity campaigns making full use of the electronic and print media.

Release of grants to Maharashtra Government for Panchayati Raj Institutions

2052. SHRI V. N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: